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R U L E S

F O R

Bad Horfemen.

Addressed to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c.

Nescit equo rudis
Harere

HOR.

By CHARLES THOMPSON, Esq;

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TO THE
SOCIETY
FOR THE
Encouragement of ARTS, &c.

Gentlemen,

THIS attempt seems properly addressed to you, as encouragers of any design to improve even the lesser conveniencies, or the amusements of life. No *invention* is here pretended to; nor other merit, than that of desiring to establish common

mon sense in the room of unexamined maxims which generally mislead.

Though theory without practice is ineffectual, yet an art not founded on rule is confined to the genius of a single artist, and cannot ascend to perfection by steps raised from the concurrent discoveries of many. Hence it happens that great arts become lost, and little ones not attained to perfection.

If the following pages shall meet with any degree of your approbation, I shall think my
pains

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pains have been usefully im-
ployed.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

And very humble Servant,

C. Thompson.

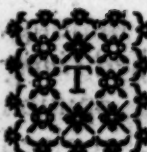




R U L E S

FOR

Bad Horsemen.


HERE is in this country an almost universal fondness for horses, and the exercise of riding; yet but few, in comparison, are tolerable horsemen. The complaints, we hear, of horses being ungovernable, or performing ill, generally arise from the unskillfulness of their riders. The case is, we want a *just taste* in riding. No man learns it as an *art*. If a young fellow can ride a fox-chace, or a horse-race, he immediately considers himself, and is considered by others

others, as a good horseman. If he has a horse which he cannot manage, he will tell you, he designs to tame him by hunting: that is, if he can but get him to go forward, he will tire him. But what end does this answer? by a week's rest the horse becomes as ungovernable as ever; and surely, if a man cannot manage his horse in full spirits, he cannot well be said to manage him at all.

Riding in the manage, or at the riding school, is indeed considered as an *art*; and there we have professed *masters* to teach it. But it is looked on as of use to military people only; or to those, in whom a shewy appearance is made proper and becoming, by their rank in life. It is supposed also, that all managed horses are taught motions for parade only; and that their paces are spoiled for the road and hunting. Hence riding in the manage is called *riding the great horse*; and the common opinion is, that nothing of this art can be applied to general use. Almost every one thinks practice alone will teach to ride: yet if artificial measures of motion, and the imitation of a good carriage, will mend even our manner of *walking*, which nature has taught, and constant practice improved; why should *riding*, which certainly is still more an *art*, be supposed to be easily, and sufficiently



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sufficiently attained, without *any* assistance. Does not daily experience proclaim the contrary? do we not see many men, who make a good figure while they stand on their legs, appear on horseback, helpless and awkward? The rowing a wherry seems to be what every one might acquire without difficulty; yet they who are instructed by rule; row better than those, who have had no instruction.

Notwithstanding this general opinion of the manage, there are some who think it teaches a horse nothing which will spoil his paces, and that he is greatly benefited by it, as he is there put under such a discipline as accustoms him to have *no will of his own*, by which means the management of him is made easy to an indifferent rider.

Were horses usually broken in thus far only in the manage, gentlemen might without great difficulty be taught all that is necessary to ride with safety, ease, and pleasure, and to make their horses perform chearfully. To this end, there should be masters to teach the art of riding on the *hunting* or *common saddle*; or the unexperienced horseman should practise a while at the riding-house, with a view to get a few general principles, which he may afterwards apply to another manner of riding.

Till

Till this is done, such instruction may be given to bad horsemen, by rule, as may enable them to ride more safely and better than they do at present; not knowing that they have any thing to learn. This, in some degree, is attempted here. Books in which the art of riding has been fully and completely taught, have not been calculated for so *inferior* a part of a horseman's education. What is said here, is not therefore designed for those who ride *well*, but for those only, who are liable to difficulties and accidents, for want of *common* cautions; and who know not, that by leaving a horse at some liberty, and avoiding to give him pain by a bad management of the bridle, he will go better and more quietly, than under a bad horseman, who lays all the weight of his arms on his horse's mouth, and by sitting awkwardly, not only becomes an uneasy burthen to himself, and his horse, but rides in continual danger of a fall.

In the first place, every horse should be accustomed to stand still, when he is mounted. One would imagine this might be readily granted; yet we see how much the contrary is practised. When a gentleman mounts at a livery stable, the groom takes the horse by the bit, which he bends tight round his under jaw: the horse striving to go on, is forced back; advancing again, he frets,

frets, as he is again stopped short, and hurt by the manner of holding him. The rider, in the mean time, mounting without the bridle, or at least holding it but slightly, is helped to it by the groom, who being thoroughly employed with the horse's fluttering has at the same time both bridle and stirrup to give. Would not this confusion be prevented, if every horse was taught to stand still when he is mounted? Forbid your groom therefore, when he rides your horse to water, to throw himself over him from a horse-block, and kick him with his leg, even before he is fairly upon him. This wrong manner of mounting is what chiefly teaches your horse the vicious habit, against which we are here warning. On the other hand, a constant practise of mounting in the proper manner is all that is necessary to prevent a horse's going on, till the rider is quite adjusted in his saddle.

The next thing necessary therefore is, that the rider should mount properly. The common method is, to stand near the croup, or the hinder part of the horse, with the bridle held very long in the right hand. By this manner of holding the bridle, before you mount, you are liable to be kicked; and when you are mounted, your horse may go on some time, or play what gambols he pleases, before the rein is short enough in
your

your hand, to prevent him. It is common likewise, for an awkward rider, as soon as his foot is in the stirrup, to throw himself with all his force, to gain his seat; which he cannot do, till he hath first overballanced himself on one side or the other: he will then wriggle into it by degrees. The way to mount with ease and safety, is to stand rather before than behind the stirrup. In this posture take the bridle short, and the mane together in your left hand, helping yourself to the stirrup with your right, so that your toe may not touch the horse in mounting. When your left foot is in the stirrup, move on your right, till you face the side of the horse, looking across over the saddle. Then with your right hand, grasp the hinder part of the saddle, and with that and your left, which holds the mane and bridle, lift yourself upright on your left foot. Remain thus a mere instant on your stirrup, only so as to divide the action into two motions. While you are in this posture, you have a sure hold with both hands, and are at liberty, either to get safely down, or to throw your leg over, and gain your seat. By this deliberate motion likewise you avoid what every good horseman would endeavour to avoid, putting your horse into a flutter.

When you dismount, hold the bridle
and

and mane together in your left hand, as when you mounted; put your right hand on the pommel of the saddle, to raise yourself; throw your leg back over the horse, grasp the hinder part of the saddle with your right hand, remain a moment on your stirrup, and in every respect, dismount as you mounted; only what was the first motion when you mounted, becomes the last in dismounting. Remember, not to bend your right knee in dismounting, least your spur should rub against the horse.

It may be next recommended to hold your bridle at a convenient length. Sit square, and let not the purchase of the bridle pull forward your shoulder; but keep your body *even*, as it would be, if each hand held a rein. Hold your reins with the whole grasp of your hand, dividing them with your little finger. Let your hand be perpendicular; your thumb will then be uppermost, and placed on the bridle. Bend your wrist a little outward, and when you pull the bridle, raise your hand toward your breast, and the lower part of the palm rather more than the upper. Let the bridle be at such a length in your hand, as if the horse should stumble, you may be able to raise his head, and support it by the strength of your arms, and the weight of your body thrown backward. If you hold the rein

too long, you are subject to fall backward, as your horse rises.

If, knowing your horse perfectly well, you think a tight reign unnecessary, advance your arm a little (but not your shoulder) towards the horse's head, and keep your usual length of rein. By this means, you have a check upon your horse, while you indulge him.

If you ride with a curb, make it a rule, to hook on the chain yourself: the most quiet horse may bring his rider into danger, should the curb hurt him. If in fixing the curb, you turn the chain to the right, the links will unfold themselves, and then oppose a farther turning. Put on the chain loose enough to hang down on the horse's under lip, so that it may not rise and press his jaw, till the reins of the bridle are moderately pulled.

If your horse has been used to stand still when he is mounted, there will be no occasion for a groom to hold him: but if he does, suffer him not to touch the reins, but that part of the bridle which comes down the cheek of the horse. He cannot then interfere with the management of the reins, which belongs to the rider only; and holding a horse by the curb (which is ever
painful

painful to him) is evidently improper, when he is to stand still.

Another thing to be remembered is, not to ride with your arms and elbows as high as your shoulders; nor to let them shake up and down with the motion of the horse. The posture is unbecoming, and the weight of the arms (and of the body too if the rider does not sit still) acts in continual jerks on the jaw of the horse, which must give him pain, and make him unquiet, if he has a tender mouth, or any spirit.

Bad riders wonder why horses are gentle as soon as they are mounted by skilful ones, though their skill *seems* unemployed: the reason is, the horse goes at his ease, yet finds all his motions watched; which he has sagacity enough to discover. Such a rider hides his whip, if he finds his horse is afraid of it, and keeps his legs from his sides, if he finds he dreads the spur.

As you are not to keep your arms and elbows high, and in motion; so you are not to rivet them to your sides, but let them fall easy. One may, at a distance, distinguish a genteel horseman, from an awkward one; the first sits still, and appears

of a piece with his horse; the latter seems
lying off at all points.

It is often said with emphasis, that such a one has no *seat* on horseback; and it means, not only that he does not ride well but that he does not sit on the right part of the horse. To have a *good seat*, is to sit on that part of the horse, which, as he springs, is the center of motion; and from which of course, any weight would be with most difficulty shaken. As in the rising and falling of a board placed in *æquilibrium*, the center will always be most at rest; the true seat will be found in that part of your saddle, into which your body would naturally slide, if you rode without stirrups; and is only to be preserved by a proper poise of the body, though the generality of riders imagine it is to be done by the grasp of the thighs and knees. The rider should consider himself as united to his horse in this point, and when shaken from it, endeavour to restore the ballance.

Perhaps the mention of the two extremes of a bad seat may help to describe the true one. The one is, when the rider sits very far back on the saddle, so that his weight presses the loins of the horse; the other, when his body hangs forward over the pommel of the saddle. The first, may be
seen

seen practised by grooms, when they ride with their stirrups affectedly short; the latter, by fearful horsemen on the least flutter of the horse. Every *good* rider has, even on the hunting saddle, as *determined* a place for his thighs, as can be determined for him by the bars of a demi-peak. Indeed there is no difference between the seat of either: only, as, in the first you ride with shorter stirrups, your body will be consequently more behind your knees.

To have a good seat yourself, your saddle must sit well. To fix a precise *rule* might be difficult: it may be a *direction*, to have your saddle press as nearly as possible on that part, which we have described as the point of union between the man and horse, however so as not to obstruct the motion of the horse's shoulders. Place yourself in the middle or lowest part of it: sit erect; but with as little constraint, as in your ordinary sitting. The ease of action marks the gentleman: you may repose yourself, but not lounge. The set and studied erectness acquired in the riding-house by those whose deportment is not easy, appears ungenteel, and unnatural.

If your horse stops short, or endeavours by rising and kicking to unseat you, bend not your body forward, as many do in those

circumstances: that motion throws the breech backward, and you off your fork or twist, and out of your seat; whereas, the advancing the lower part of your body, and bending back the upper part and shoulders, is the method both to keep your seat, and to recover it when lost. The bending your body back and that in a great degree, is the greatest security in *flying* leaps; it is a security too, when your horse leaps *standing*. The horse's rising does not try the rider's seat; the lash of his hind legs is what ought chiefly to be guarded against, and is best done by the body's being greatly inclined back. Stiffen not your legs or thighs, and let your body be pliable in the loins, like the coachman's on his box. This loose manner of sitting will elude every rough motion of the horse; whereas the fixture of the knees, so commonly laid a stress on, will in great shocks conduce to the violence of the fall.

Was the cricket player, when the ball is struck with the greatest velocity, to hold his hand firm and fixed when he receives it, the hand would be bruised, or perhaps the bones fractured by the resistance. To obviate this accident, he therefore gradually yields his hand to the motion of the ball for a certain distance; and thus by a due mixture of opposition and obedience catches

es it without sustaining the least injury. The case is exactly the same in riding : the skilful horseman will recover his poise, by giving some way to the motion, and the ignorant horseman will be flung out of his seat, by endeavouring to be fixed.

Stretch not out your legs before you : this will push you against the back of the saddle ; neither gather up your knees, like a man riding on a pack, this throws your thighs upwards : each practise unseats you. Keep your legs straight down, and sit not on the most fleshy part of the thighs, but turn them inwards, so as to bring in your knees and toes ; and it is more safe to ride with the ball of the foot pressing on the stirrup, than with the stirrup as far back as the heel ; for the pressure of the heel being in that case behind the stirrup, keeps the thighs down.

When you find your thighs thrown upwards, widen your knees to get them and the upper part of your fork lower down on the horse. Grasp the saddle with the hollow or inner part of your thighs, but not more than just to assist the ballance of your body : this will also enable you to keep your spurs from the horse's sides, and to bring your toes in, without that effected and useless manner of bringing them in, practised by many. Sink your heels
straight

straight down, for while your heels and thighs keep down, you cannot fall: this, (aided with the bend of the back) gives the security of a seat, to those who bear themselves up in their stirrups in a swift gallop, or in the alternate rising and falling in a full trot.

Let your seat determine the length of your stirrups, rather than the stirrups your seat. If more precision is requisite, let your stirrups (in the hunting saddle) be of such a length, as that when you stand in them, there may be the breadth of four fingers between your seat and the saddle.

It would greatly assist a learner, if he would practise riding in a large circle, without stirrups, keeping his face looking on the outward part of the circle, so as hardly to see the horse's head; and his shoulder, which is towards the center of the circle, very forward. By this means, you learn to ballance your body, and keep a true seat independant of your stirrups: you may probably likewise escape a fall, should you at any time loose them, by being accidentally shaken from your seat.

As the seat in some measure depends on the saddle, it may not be amiss to observe that because a saddle with a high pommel
is

is thought dangerous, the other extreme prevails, and the pommel is scarce allowed to be higher than the middle of the saddle. The saddle should lie as near the back bone as can be, without hurting the horse; for the nearer you sit to his back, the better seat you have. If it does so, it is plain the pommel must rise enough to secure the withers from pressure: therefore, a horse whose withers are higher than common, requires a higher pommel. If to avoid this, you make the saddle of a more straight line, the inconvenience spoken of follows; you sit too much above the horse's back; nor can the saddle form a proper seat. There should be no ridge from the button at the side of the pommel, to the back part of the saddle. That line also should be a little concave, for your thighs to lie at ease. In short, a saddle ought to be, as nearly as possible, as if cut out of the horse.

When you want your horse to move forward, raise his head a little, and touch him gently with your whip; or else, press the calves of your legs against his sides. If he does not move fast enough, press them with more force, and so, till the spur just touches him. By this practice, he will (if he has any spirit) move upon the least pressure of the leg. Never spur him by a kick; but if it be necessary to spur him briskly,
keep

keep your heels close to his sides and slacken their force, as he becomes obedient.

When your horse attempts to be vicious, take each rein separate one in each hand, and advancing your arms forward, hold him very short. In this case, it is common for the rider to pull him hard, with his arms low; but the horse by this means having his head low too, has it more in his power to throw out his heels: whereas, if his head be raised very high, and his nose thrown out a little, which is consequent, he can neither rise before nor behind; because he can give himself neither of those motions, without having his head at liberty. A plank placed in æquilibrium, cannot rise at one end unless it sinks at the other.

If your horse is headstrong, pull not with one continued pull, but stop, and back him often, just shaking the reins, and making little repeated pulls till he obeys. Horses are so accustomed to bear on the bit, when they go forward, that they are discouraged if the rider will not let them do so.

If a horse is loose-necked, he will throw up his head at a continued pull; in which situation, the rider seeing the front of his face, can have no power over him. When your horse does thus, drop your hand, and
give

give the bridle play, and he will of course drop his head again into it's proper place : while it is coming down, make a second gentle pull, and you will find his mouth. With a little practise, this is done almost instantaneously ; and this method will stop, in the distance of a few yards, a horse, which will run away with those who pull at him with *all* their might. Almost every one must have observed, that when a horse feels himself pulled with the bridle, even when he is going gently ; he often mistakes what was designed to *stop* him, as a direction to bear on the bit, and to go *faster*.

Keep your horse's head high, that he may raise his neck, and crest ; play a little with the rein, and move the bit in his mouth, that he may not press on it, in one constant and continued manner. Be not afraid of raising his head too high ; he will naturally be too ready to bring it down, and tire your arms with it's weight, on the least abatement of his mettle. When you feel him heavy, stop him, and make him go back a few paces : thus you break by degrees his propensity to press on his bridle.

You ought not to be pleased (though many are) with a round neck, and a head drawn in towards his breast : let your horse
carry

carry his head bridling in, provided he carries it high, and his neck arching *upwards*; but if his neck bends *downwards*, his figure is bad, his sight is too near his toes, he leans on the bridle, and you have no command over him. If he goes pressing but lightly on his bridle, he is the more sure footed, and goes pleasanter; as your wrist only may guide him. / If he hangs down his head, and makes you support the weight of that, and his neck with your arms, bearing on his fore legs, (which is called *being on his shoulders*) he will strike his toes against the ground, and stumble

If your horse is heavy upon his bit, tie him every day, for an hour or two, with his tail to the manger, and his head as high as you can make him lift it, by a rein on each post of the stall, tied to each ring of the snaffle bit,

Horse-breakers and grooms have a great propensity to bring a horse's head *down*, and seem to have no feat without a strong hold by the bridle. They know indeed, that the head should yield to the reins, and the neck form an arch; but do not take the proper pains to make it arch *upward*. A temporary effect of attempting to raise a horse's head, may perhaps be making him

him push out his nose. They will here tell you, that his head is too high already; whereas, it is not the distance from his *nose*, but from the *top* of his head, to the ground, which determines the head, to be high or low. Besides, although the fault is said to be in the manner of carrying the head, it should rather be said to be in that of the neck; for if the neck was raised, the head would be more in the position of one set on a well formed neck.

The design therefore of lifting up the head, is to raise the neck, and *thereby* bring in the head; for even while the bridle makes the same line from the rider's hand to the bit, the horse's nose may be either drawn in, or thrust out, according as his neck is raised or depressed. Instead of what has been here recommended, we usually see colts broke with their heads caved down very low, their necks stiff, and not in the least suppled. When the breaking tackle is left off, and they are mounted for the road, having more food and rest, they frequently plunge, and a second breaking becomes necessary. Then, as few gentlemen can manage their own horses, they are put into the hands of grooms, from whom they learn a variety of bad habits.

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If on the other hand, your horse carries his head (or rather his nose) too high, he generally makes some amends by moving his shoulders lightly, and going safely. Attend to the cause of this fault. Some horses have their necks set so low on their shoulders, that they bend first down, then upwards like a stag's. Some have the upper line of their necks, from their ears to their withers, too short. A head of this sort cannot possibly bend inwards, and form an arch, because the vertebræ (or neck bones) are too short to admit of flexure; for in long and short necked horses the number of vertebræ is the same. In some, the jaw is so thick, that it meets the neck, and the head by this means has not room to bend. On the other hand, some have the under line from the jaw to the breast, so short, that the neck cannot rise.

In all these cases you may gain a little by a nice hand with an easy bit; but no curb, martingale, or other forcible method, will *teach* a horse to carry his head or neck, in a posture which nature has made uneasy to him. By trying to pull in his nose, farther than he can bear, you will add a bad habit to nature. You could not indeed *contrive* a more effectual method, to make him continually toss his nose up, and throw his foam over you.

The

The rule already given to ride a loose-necked horse, will be a proper one for all light-mouthed horses: one caution being added, which is, always to search whether his saddle, or girths may not in some way pinch him, and whether the bit may not hurt his lip by being too high in his mouth: because whenever he frets from either of these causes, his head will not be steady.

It is a common custom, to be always pulling at the bridle, as if to set of to advantage either the spirit of the horse, or the skill of the rider. Our horses therefore are taught to hold their heads ~~low~~, and pull so, as to bear up the rider from the saddle, standing in his stirrups, even in the gentlest gallop: how very improper this is, we are experimentally convinced, when we happen to meet with a horse which gallops otherwise. We immediately say, he canters excellently, and find the ease and pleasure of his motion. When horses are designed for the race, and swiftness is the only thing considered, the method may be a good one.

It is not to be wondered, that *Dealers* are always pulling at their horses; that they have the spur constantly in their sides, and are at the same time continually check-

ing the rein: by this means they make them bound, and champ the bit, while while their rage has the appearance of spirit. These people ride with their arms spread, and very low on the shoulders of their horses: this method makes them stretch their necks, and gives a better appearance to their fore-hands; it conceals also a thick jaw, which if the head was up, would prevent its yielding to the bit; it hides likewise the ewe-neck, which would otherwise shew itself. Indeed, if you have a horse unsteady to the bit, formed with a naturally heavy head, or one which carries his nose obstinately in the air, you must find his mouth where you can, and make the best of him.

Many horses are taught to start, by whipping them for starting. How is it possible they can know it is designed as a punishment? In the riding-house, you teach your horse to rise up before, and to spring and lash out his hinder legs, by whipping him when tied between two pillars, with his head a little at liberty. If he understood this to be a punishment for doing so, he would not by that method learn to do it. He seems to be in the same manner taught to spring and fly when he is frightened. Most horses would go quietly past an object they were beginning to fly from, if

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if their riders, instead of gathering up their bridles, and shewing themselves so ready, should throw the reins loose upon their necks.

When a horse starts at any thing on one side, most riders turn him out of the road, to make him go up to what he starts at : if he does not get the better of his fear, or readily comply, he generally goes past the object, making with his hinder parts, or croup, a great circle out of the road ; whereas, he should learn to keep strait on, without minding objects on either side.

If he starts at any thing on the left, hold his head high, and keep it strait in the road, pulling it *from* looking at the thing he starts at, and keeping your right leg hard pressed again his side, towards his flank : he will then go strait along the road. By this method, and by turning his head a little more, he may be forced with his croup close up to what frightened him ; for as his head is pulled one way, his croup necessarily turns the other. Always avoid a quarrel with your horse, if you can ; if he is apt to start, you will find occasions enough to exercise his obedience, when what he starts at lies directly in his way, and you *must* make him pass : If he is not

subject to start, you should not contend with him about a trifle.

Let me just observe, that this rule in going past an object may perhaps be a little irregular in a managed horse; which will always obey the leg: but even such a horse, if he is really afraid and not restive, it may not be amiss to make him look another way: unless the object be something you would particularly accustom him to the sight of.

The case will also be different, with a horse whose fear is owing to his being not used to objects; but such a one is not to be rode by any horseman to whom these rules are directed: the starting here meant arises merely from the horse's being pamper'd, and springing through liveliness.

The notion of the necessity of making a horse go immediately up to every thing he is afraid of, and not suffering him to become master of his rider, seems to be in general carried to far. It is an approved and good method to conquer a horse's fear of the sound of a drum, by beating one near him at the time of feeding him: this not only familiarises the noise to him, but makes it pleasant, as a forerunner of his meat; whereas, if he was whipped

whipped up to it, he might perhaps start at it, as long as he lived. Might not this be applied to his starting at other things, and shew that it would be better to suffer him (provided he does not turn back) to go a little from, and avoid an object he has a dislike to, and to accustom him to it by degrees, convincing him as it were that it will not hurt him; than to punish him, quarrel with him, and perhaps submit to his will at last, while you insist on his overcoming his fear in an instant? If he sees a like object again, it is probable he will recollect his dread, and arm himself to be disobedient.

We are apt to suppose, that a horse fears nothing so much as his rider; but may he not, in many circumstances, be afraid of instant destruction? of being crushed? of being drowned? of falling down a precipice? is it a wonder that a horse should be afraid of a loaded waggon? may not the hanging load seem to threaten the falling on him? there cannot be a rule more general, than, in such a case, to shew him there is room for him to pass. This is done by turning his head a very little from the carriage, and pressing your leg, which is farthest from it, against his side.

A horse

A horse is not to stop without a sign from his rider——Is it not then probable that when he is driven up to a carriage he starts at, he conceives himself obliged either to attack or run against it? Can he understand the rider's spurring him with his face directed to it, as a sign for him to pass it? That a horse is easily alarmed for his face and eyes; (he will even catch back his head from a hand going to caress him) that he will not go with any force, face to face, even to another horse, (if in his power to stop) and that he fees perfectly sideways, may be useful hints for the treatment of horses, with regard to starting.

Though you ought not to whip a horse for starting, there can be no good effect from clapping his neck with your hand, to encourage him. If one took any notice of his starting, it should be rather with some tone of voice which he usually understood as an expression of dislike to what he is doing; for there is *opposition* mixed with his starting, and a horse will ever repeat what he finds hath foiled his rider.

Notwithstanding the direction above given, of not pressing a horse up to a carriage he starts at, yet if one which you apprehend will frighten him meets you at a narrow
part

part of the road; when you have once let him know he is to pass it, be sure you remain determined, and press him on. Do this more especially, when part of the carriage has already past you; for if, when he is frightened, he is accustomed to go back, and turn round, he will certainly do it, if he finds, by your hand slackening, and legs not pressing, that you are irresolute; and this at the most dangerous point of time, when the wheels of the carriage take him as he turns. Remember not to touch the curb rein at this time, it will certainly check him. Ride with a snaffle, and use your curb, if you have one, only occasionally. Chuse your snaffle full and thick in the mouth, especially at the ends, to which the reins are fastened. Most of them are made too small and long; they cut the horse's mouth, and bend back over the bars of his jaw, working like pincers.

The management of the curb is too nice a matter to enter on here, farther, than to prescribe great caution in the use of it: a turn of the wrist, rather than the weight of your arm, should be applied to it. The elasticity of a rod, when it hath hooked a fish, may give you some idea of the proper play of a horse's head on his
 bridle;

bridle; his spirit and his pliability are both marked by it.

A horse should never be put to do any thing in a curb, which he is not ready at: you may force him, or pull his head any way, with a snaffle; but a curb acts *only* in a strait line. It is true, that a horse will be turned out of one track into another by a curb, but it is because he knows it as a *signal*. When he is put to draw a chair, and does not understand the necessity he is then under of taking a larger sweep, when he turns, you frequently see him *restive*, as it is then called; but put him on a snaffle, or buckle the rein to that part of the bit, which does not curb him; and the horse submits to be pulled about, till he understands what is desired of him. These directions suppose your horse to have spirit, and a good mouth: if he has not, you must take him as he is, and ride him with such a bit, as you find most easy to yourself.

When you ride a journey, be not so attentive to your horse's nice carriage of himself, as to your encouragement of him, and keeping him in good humour. Raise his head; but if he flags, you may indulge him with bearing a little more upon the bit, than you would suffer in an airing.

If

BAD HORSEMEN. 35

If a horse is lame, tender-footed, or tired, he naturally hangs upon his bridle. On a journey therefore, his mouth will depend greatly on his strength, and the goodness of his feet. Be then very careful about his feet, and let not a farrier spoil them. You will be enabled to keep them from danger, by a few directions, which shall not be very digressive.

When your horse is shod, suffer not his feet to be hollowed, but order them to be pared quite flat, and most at the toe. There is generally a finishing stroke, for the sake of neatness, given by a farrier, at the end of the horn of the hoof, above the shoe; this is the *most useful* part of the hoof, and whatever is taken from it, it is like paring the bottom of a post, which of consequence weakens it in the most essential way. Let not the heel nor frog be pared, more than to take off what is ragged or broken. (It is still more safe to do that yourself at your leisure with a knife, than to trust a farrier to pare it in the least.)

If this method was practised, horses would be less liable to corns, as the hoof in that case would escape the pressure it is exposed to in the usual manner of shoeing, and pressure seems undoubtedly to be the cause
of

of corns. This would secure them too against wounds from pointed nails, which cannot pierce the flesh of the foot, through a frog in its natural state. Such an one is of a still farther use; it keeps the two divisions of the heel broad and asunder. Yet farriers do just the contrary, and pare the frog very thin, in order to open the heel, as they term it; by which it is plain they see the necessity of keeping the heel broad and open, though they prevent the very effect they aim at. They also make another mistake, in driving nails very backward toward the heel, where the horn is soft and sensible; and none at the toe, where every horse has a substance of horn sufficient to bear them.—Few, except stoned horses, have high heels, when they have, the whole foot must be pared flat, but the frog by no means hollowed out. If a horse has a low heel, that is, such a one as lets the fleshy part of the heel come too near the ground, let him be pared only at the toe. A horse with short pasterns requires a shorter shoe, because a long shoe brings his heels more back than the unpliableness of his pasterns will admit, without some degree of pain. In general, a short shoe may possibly sometimes expose a horse to little accidental lamenesses, but a long shoe with the nails far back near his heels, will in the end con-

tract

tract and ruin them. It is plain from experience, that all low-heeled horses go best when they have been long shod; that is, when the foot is grown longer, and the shoe in consequence is become proportionably shorter, and fits more forward on the foot.

Very few, although practised in riding, know they have any power over a horse, but by the bridle; or any use for the spur, except to make him go forward. A little experience will teach them a farther use. If the left spur touches him (and he is at the same time prevented from going forward) he has a sign, which he will soon understand, to move sideways to the right. In the same manner to the left, if the right spur is closed to him: he afterwards, through fear of the spur, obeys a touch of the leg. In the same manner as a horse moves his croup from one side of the stall to the other, when any one strikes him with his hand. In short, his croup is guided by the leg, as his head is by the bridle. He will never disobey the leg, unless he becomes restive. By this means, you will have a far greather power over him; he will move sideways, if you close one leg to him, and strait forward, if both: even

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when he stands still, your legs held near him will keep him on the watch, and with the slightest, unseen motion of the bridle upwards, he will raise his head, and shew his forehead to advantage.

On this use of the legs of the rider, and guidance of the croup of the horse, are founded all the *Airs* (as the riding-masters express themselves) which are taught in the manage; the passage, or side motion of troopers to close or open their files, and indeed all their evolutions. But the convenience of some degree of this discipline for common use, is the reason of mentioning it here. It is chiefly useful when a horse starts. When he is beginning to fly to one side, your leg on the side he is flying to, stops his spring immediately. He goes past what he started at, keeping strait on, or as you chuse to direct him, and he will not fly back from any thing, if you press him with both legs. You keep his haunches under him going down a hill; help him on the side of a bank; more easily avoid the wheel of a carriage, and approach more gracefully and nearer to the side of a coach, or horseman. When a pampered horse curvets irregularly, and twists his body to and fro, turn his head either to the right
or

or left, or both alternately, (but without letting him move out of the track) and press your leg to the opposite side: your horse cannot then spring on his hind legs, to one side, because your leg prevents him; nor to the other, because his head looks that way, and a horse does not start and spring to the side on which he looks.

These rules and observations may perhaps, convey some idea, though but an imperfect one, to bad riders, of that *sleight*, which makes horses obedient, when they would resist *force*; and may serve to shew them, that something more than what the horse learns from his *Breaker*, is necessary to make him tractable.

Colts at first are taught to *bear* a bit, and by degrees to *pull* at it. If they did not press it, they could not be guided by it. By degrees they find their necks stronger than the arms of a man; and that they are capable of making great opposition, and often of foiling their riders. Then is the time to make them supple and pliant in every part. The part which of all others requires most this pliancy, is the neck. Hence the metaphor of *stiff-necked* for *disobedient*. A horse cannot move his head, but with the muscles of his neck: this may be called his helm; it guides

his course, changes and directs his motion.

To shew the use of this pliancy in *every* part and limb of the horse, would be beyond the design of these few lessons, directed only to the the *unexperienced* horseman. *His* idea of suppleness need only be that of an ability and readiness in a horse to move every limb, on a sign given him by the hands or legs of his rider; as also, to bend his body, and move in a short compass, quick and collected within himself, so as instantly to be able to perform any other motion.

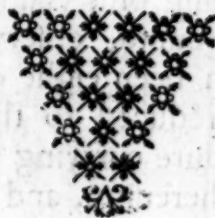
If the few rules laid down here, seem insufficient to the end proposed; at least let me hope they will convince the young horseman that *some* rules are necessary: and thus convinced, let him apply to abler masters in the art for more sufficient instruction.

F I N I S.

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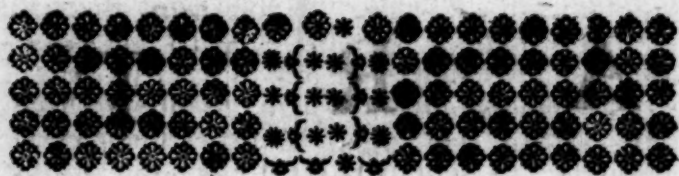
B. Y.

RICHARD SEYMOUR Esq;



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*The GENTLEMAN'S DIVERSION,
in the Arts and Mysteries of
Riding, and Racing.*

OF RIDING.

AS an Introduction to the Art of RIDING, I think it requisite to treat of the taming of a young Colt: In order hereunto, observe, that after your Colt hath been eight or ten Days at home, and is reduced to that Familiarity that he will endure currying without shewing Aversion thereunto, and will suffer his Keeper to handle and stroke him in what Part of the Body he thinketh best, then it is Time to offer him the Saddle; first laying it in the Manager, that he may smell to it, and thereby grow acquainted with

with it, using all other Means that he may not be affraid either at the Sight thereof, or at the Noise of the stirrups. Having gently put on the Saddle, take a sweet watering Trench wash'd and anointed with Honey and Salt, and so place it in his Mouth, that it may hang directly about his Tush, somewhat leaning thereon: Having so done, which must be in a Morning after dressing, then lead him out in your Hand, and water him abroad; then bring him in; and after he hath stood rein'd a little upon his Trench, an Hour, or thereabouts, then unbridle and unsaddle him, and give him Liberty to feed till Evening, and then do as before; having cherished him, dress and cloath him for the Night.

The next Day do as you did before, and after that, put on him a strong Mussole, or sharp Cavezan and Martingale, which you must buckle at that Length, that he may only feel it when he jerketh up his Head then lead him forth into some new plow'd Land, or soft Ground, and there having made him trot a good while about in your Hand, to take him off from Wantonness and wild Tricks, offer to mount, which if he then refuse trot him again in your Hand, then put your Foot into the Stirrup, and mount half Way, and dismount again; if he seem distasted at it, about with him again, and let him

him not want Correction; but if he take it patiently, cherish him, and place your self in the Saddle, but stay there a very little while, then cherish him again, and give him Bread or Grasse to feed on; then having seen all Things fit and strong without Offence to your self and Horse, remount him, placing your self even in the Saddle, carrying your Rod inoffensively to his Eye; then let some Person, having in his hand the Chaff-halter, lead him a little Way, then make him stand and having cherish'd him, let him forward again; do this seven or eight Times, or so often till you have brought him of his own Accord to go forward, then must you stay and cherish him, and having brought him home, alight gently, then dress and feed him well.

Observe this Course every Day till you have brought him to trot, which will be but three at the most, if you observe to make him follow some other Horseman, stopping him now and then gently, and then making him go forward, remembering his seasonable Cherishings, and not forgetting his due Corrections as often as you find him froward and rebellious; and when you ride him abroad, return not the same way home, that you may make him take all ways indifferently: And by these Observations you will bring him to understand your Will and Purpose in less than a Fornight's Time.

Having

Having brought your Horse to receive you to his Back, trot fore-right, stop and retire with Patience and Obedience, be never unmindful of your *Helps, Corrections, and Cherishings*, which consist in the *Voice, Bridle, Rod, Calves of the legs, and Spurs*; the last of which is chief for Correction, which must not be done faintly, but sharply, when Occasion shall require it.

Cherishings may be comprehended within three Heads; the Voice delivered smoothly and lovingly, as, *so, so Boy, so*; then the Hand by clapping him gently on the Neck or Buttock: Lastly, the Rod by rubbing him therewith upon the Withers of the Main in which he very much delights.

The next that you are to regard, is the *Mussole or Cavezan and Martingale*; this is an excellent Guide to a well-disposed Horse for setting of his Head in due Place, forming of his Rein, and making him appear lovely to the Eye of a Spectator; and withal this is a sharp Correction when a Horse jerketh up his Nose, disorders his Head, or endeavours to run away with his Rider.

The Manner of placing it is thus: Let it hang somewhat low, and rest upon the tender Gristle of the Horse's Nose, that he may be the more sensible of Correction; and let it
not

not be strait, but loose, whereby the Horse may feel, upon the yielding in of his Head, how the Offence goeth from him, and by that Means be made sensible, that his own Disorder was his only Punishment.

You must carefully observe how you win your Horse's Head, and by those Degrees bring his Martingale straiter and straiter, so as the Horse may ever have a gentle Feeling of the same, and no more, till his head be brought to its true Perfection, and there stay.

When you have brought your Horse to some Certainty of Rein, and will trot forth-right, then bring him to the treading forth of the large Rings. If your Horse's Nature be slothful and dull, yet strong, trot him first in some new plow'd Field; but if agile, and of a fiery spirit, then trot him in some sandy Ground, and there mark out a spacious large Ring, about an hundred Paces in Circumference. Having walk'd him about it on the Right seven or eight Times, you must then by a little straitning of your right Rein, and laying the Calf of your Left Leg to his Side, making a half Circle within your Ring, upon your Right Hand down to the Center thereof, and then by straitning a little your Left Rein, and laying the Calf of your Right Leg to his Side, making another Semi-circle to your Left Hand from the Center to the utmost Verge; which two Semi-circles contrary

trary turned, will make a perfect *Roman S* within the Ring; then keep your first large Circumference, walk your Horse about in your Left Hand, as oft as you did on your Right; and then change within your Ring as you did before, to your Right Hand again; and then trot him first on the Right Hand, then on the Left as long as you shall think convenient, either one, two, or three Hours, to perfect him in his Lesson; and this must be done every Morning and Evening too, if you find your Horse slothful and dull; otherwise you need not take so much Pains with him.

Having taught him to trot the large Rings perfectly, which will not require above four or five Days; then in the same Manner and Changes make him gallop the same Rings, making him take up his Feet so truly and loftily, that no Falshood may be perceived in his Stroke, but that his inward Feet play before his outward, and each of a Side follow the other so exactly, that his Gallop may appear the best Grace of all his Motions.

- Here *Note*, You must not enter him all at once to gallop this great Ring, but by Degrees; first a Quarter, then half a Quarter, &c. ever remembering not to force him into it with the Spur, but by the Lightness and Cheerfulness

Cheerfulness of your Body let him pass of his own accord into a Gallop.

Helps, Corrections, and Cherishings, in the Ring-turn, are as aforesaid; the Elevation of the Voice, and the threatning of the Rod, and straitning of the Bridle, are good Helps, which you must use as you must the Spur, Rod and Leg, for timely due Corrections: Neither must you ever cherish without Desert.

Having made your Horse gallop as well as trot the large Ring, then teach him to stop fair, comely, and without Danger, after this Manner: First, having cherish'd him, bring him into a swift Trot forward about fifty Paces; then draw in your Bridle-hand straitly and suddenly, which will make him gather up his hinder and fore-Legs together, and thereby stand still: Then ease your Hand a little, that he may give backward; which if he doth, give him more Liberty, and cherish him: Having given a little Respite, draw in your Bridle-hand, and make him go back three or four Paces, at which if he strike, instantly ease your Hand, and draw it up again, letting him come and go till he yield and go backward; but if he refuse it, let some Person standing by, put him back, and then cherish him, that he may know your Intention. Thus every Time you stop,
make

make him retire, till you have perfected him in these two Lessons at one Time.

• Have a Care that the Ground be not slippery where you stop, but firm and hard, lest the Horse, apprehensive of the Danger of falling, refuse to stop as you would have him.

When your Horse can stop well, and retire, you must then teach him to advance before, when he stoppeth; a Lesson that carrieth much Grace and Comeliness therein; it is performed in this manner: After you have stopped your Horse, without giving your Hand any Ease, lay the Calves of both your Legs to his Sides, shaking your Rod, and crying, *Up, up*; which though he understand not at first, yet by frequent Practice, with Helps, Cherishings, and Corrections, as aforesaid, he will come to understand your Meaning. But be sure you look narrowly to the Comeliness of the Advancing, which consists in taking up his Legs both even together, bending them inward to his Body, next his Advance must not be too high, for fear of his coming over upon you; but let him couch his hinder-Loins close to the Ground, but by no Means suffer him to sprawl or paw with his Feet forward. Lastly He must not advance for his own pleasure (for

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that

that is a great Fault) but for your's according to your Will and Command.

If in Advancing he rise too high, ready to come over, or sprawl, or paw, give him not only your Spurs both together, but lash him twice or thrice with your Rod between his Ears; and if he advanceth of his own accord, then jerk him over the Knees, doing so as often as he commits those Faults.

Now the Use of Advancing is this; it not only graceth all his other Lessons, but makes his Body agile and nimble, and fits him for ready turning; it is most used at Stopping, and then very gracefully.

In the next Place, you must teach your Horse to jerk out behind, after this manner: As soon as you have made him stop, presently give him a jerk under his Belly, near his Flank, which will make him understand you in Time, tho' not presently. At first doing cherish him much, and having let him pause, make him do it again, till he will do it as often as you will have him: But above all, look to the Comeliness of his Yerking, for it is not graceful for him to jerk out his hinder-Legs till his fore-Legs be above the Ground; and see that he jerk not one Leg farther than the other, but both being together,

ther, and not too high, or one Leg out whilst the other is on the Ground.

Helps in Yerking, are the constant staying of his mouth on the Bridle, the Stroke of the Rod under his Belly, or a gentle Touch thereof on his Rump.

If he refuse to yerk, or doth it disorderly then a single Spur on that side that is faulty ; and lastly continual diseasing him till he hath done it.

Now, to teach him to turn readily on both Hands, is first to bring his large Rings into a narrower Compass, that is, about four Yards in Circumference, walking your Horse therein with all Gentleness, and at his own Pleasure, till he is acquainted therewith : After this, carry your Bridle-hand constant, and somewhat strait, the outmost Rein straiter than the inmost, making the Horse rather look from the Ring, than into it ; and thus trot him about, first on the one Side, then on the other, making your Changes as aforesaid. Thus exercise him an Hour and half, then stop and make him advance three or four times together, then retire in an even Line, afterwards stand still and cherish him : Having paused awhile to recover breath, exercise him as aforesaid still endeavouring to bring his Trot to all the Swiftnes and Loftines

ness possible, making him to do his Changes roundly and readily, and causing him to lap his outmost Leg, so much over his inmost Leg, that he may cover it more than a Foot over: And thus exercise him seven or eight Days, every Morning at least three Hours and suffer him only to practise his former Lessons once in a Morning; in this manner you teach your Horse three Lessons together, the *Terra a Terra*, the *Incavalere*, and the *Chambletta*.

The Turn *Terra a Terra* in the outmost Circle of the strait Ring, and the *Incavalere* and *Chambletta* in the Changes, wherein he is forced to lap one Leg over another, or else to lift up the inmost Leg from the Ground whilst he brings the outmost over it: This Lesson is so difficult, that a complete Horseman should think his Horse hath never perfectly learn'd it; and therefore he must continually practise his Horse in treading, trotting, and galloping these narrow Rings; and from these to pass them about in Ground-salts, as from taking up his fore-Legs from the Ground both together, and bringing his hinder-feet in their Place, and so passing the Ring as often as the Strength of the Horse and your own Reason will allow of.

Thus

Thus you see the perfecting you Horse in the large Ring will easily introduce him into the Knowledge of the strait Ring, and that brings him to turn perfectly, and Stopping begets Retiring, and Retiring, Advancing.

Having brought your Horse to this Perfection, take off his *Musrole* and *Trench* and in their stead put on his head a gentle *Cavezan*, in such manner that it lie on the tender Gristle of his Nose, somewhat near the upper Part of his Nostrils; put in his Mouth a sweet smooth Cannon-bit, with a plain watering Chain, the Check being of a large Size; let the *Kirble* be thick, round and large, hanging loosely upon his nether Lip, so that it may entice him to play therewith.

Having so done, mount, casting the Left Rein of your *Cavezan* over the Horse's Right Shoulder, and bearing it with your Thumb with the Reins of the Bit in your Left Hand; let the right Reins of the *Cavezan* be cast over his Left Shoulder, and bear it with the Rod in your hand, and so trot him forth the first Morning about two Miles in the Highway, making him now and then stop and retire, and gather up his Head in its due Place the next Day bring him to his former large Rings, and perfect him therein with the Bit, as you did with the Snaffle all the

foregoing Lessons, which is more easily done, by reason the Bit is of better Command, and of sharper Correction.

The next Thing we shall speak of (to avoid every Thing that is not very pertinent to our Purpose) is the *Turning-post*, which must be smooth and strong, and very well fix'd in the Center of the strait Ring; and then causing some Person to stand at the Post, give him the Right Rein of your *Cavezan* to hold about the Post, and so walk or trot your Horse about the same as often as you think fit on your Right Hand: Then change your Right Rein for your Left, and do as before. Continue thus doing till your Horse be perfect in every Turn. Having so done, teach him to manage (the proper Posture for a Sword), which is thus perform'd: Cause two Rods to be prick'd in the Earth, at what Distance you shall think fit from one another; then walk your Horse in a strait Ring about the first on your Right Hand, passing him in an even Furrow down to the other Rod, and walk about that also in a narrow Ring on your left Hand, then trust him into a gentle Gallop down the even Furrow, till you come to the first Rod, and there make him stop (as it were) and advance without Pause or Intermission of Time; thrust him forward again, beat the Turn *Terra a Terra* about

about on your right Hand; then gallop forth-right to the other Rod, and in the same Manner beat the turn about on the Left Hand; do this as often as you shall think convenient. Though there are many sorts of Managers, yet I hold but two necessary and useful, and that is this already described called *Terra a Terra*, and *Incavalere*, or *Chamblitta* afore-mention'd. As for the *Career*, I need not speak much thereof only this, when you run him forth-right at full Speed, stop him quickly, suddenly, firm, and close on his Buttock, and mark that you make not your Career too long, nor too short; the one weakens, and the other hinders the Discovery of his true Wind and Courage; therefore let not the Length of your Career extend above six-score Yards; and be sure you give him some little Warning by your Bridle-hand, before you start him, and then stop him firmly and strongly.

Thus much for the War-Horse, or great Saddle.

Of the Horse of Pleasure.

IF you will make your Horse to bound; aloft, you must first trot about sixteen Yards, then stop him, and when he hath advanced twice, straiten a little your Bridle-hand,

hand, and then give him the even stroke of both your Spurs together hard, which at first will only amaze him; but if he have good Mettle and Courage, he will at length rise from the Ground by often doing it; if he doth it, tho' but little, cherish him very much, then let him Pause, and give him your Spurs again, and if he acts according to your Desire, cherish him again: Make him do thus three or four times a Day, till he is so perfect that he will do it any Time at your Spurs Command.

Next teach him to Corvet, thus; hollow the Ground a Horse's Length, where two Walls join together, then place a strong smooth Post by the Side of the Hollowness of a Horse's Length, likewise from the wall; then over against the Post fasten an Iron Ring at the Wall; this done, ride your Horse into the hollow Place, and fasten one of the Reins of the Cavezan to the Ring, and the other about the Post; then (having first cherished your Horse) make him advance by the Help of the Calves of your Legs, twice or thrice together, then let him pause; after this (cherishing him again) advance him halfe a Score times together, and daily increase his advancements, till you perceive he hath got such a Habit therein, that he will by no Means go forward, but keeping his Ground certain, advance both before and behind of an equal Height, and keep just and
certain

certain Time with the Motions of his Legs; and if he raise his hinder Legs not high enough, you must have some body behind, who having a Rod, must gently jerk him on the Fillets, to make him raise his hinder Parts. By taking this Course, in a few days you will so teach your Horse to Corvet, that without any helps, at any Time and Place, you may make him Corvet at your Pleasure.

I need not speak of the *Capriole*, since it is the same Manner of Motion as the *Corvet*, only it is done forward, gaining Ground in the Salt, raising his hinder parts as high or higher than the foremost.

If you wou'd have your Horse go side-long on either Hand, you must draw up your Bridle-hand strait; and if you would have him go on the Right Hand, lay your Left Rein close to his Neck, and the Calf of your Leg close to his Side, making him put his Left Leg over his Right; then turning your Rod backward, gently jerking him on the Left hinder Thigh, make him bring his hinder Parts to the Right Side also, and stand in an even Line as at first; then make him move his Fore-parts more than before, so that he may, as it were, cross over the even Line and then make him bring his hinder Part after, and stand in an even Line again; and this do till by Practice he will move his fore-Parts
and

and hinder Parts both together, and go side-long as far as you please ; and if you would have him go on the Left-hand, do as before.

To conclude, these are the most material Lessons requisite to be taught any Horse whatever, either for Service or Pleasure, which, if taught with Care and Patience, you may conclude your Horse perfect and compleat. But be sure you observe this, that whatsoever Lesson your Horse is most imperfect in, with that Lesson, even when you ride, begin and end ; repeating every one over, more or less left want of Use breed Forgetfulness, and Forgetfulness absolute Ignorance.

Of RACING.

FOR the compleating a Gentleman's Delight in the Art of *Racing*, he is to take special Cognizance of the subsequent Rules and Orders.

First, He is to consider what is the most convenient Time to take his Horse from Grass, which is about *Bartholomew tide*, the Day being dry, fair, and pleasant ; as soon as he is taken up, let him stand all that Night in some convenient dry Place to empty his Body ; the next Day put him into a Stable, and feed him with Wheat-Straw, but no longer ; for tho' the Rule be good in taking up
Horses

Horfes Bellies after this Manner, yet if you exceed your Time in so doing, this Straw will straiten his Guts, heat his Liver, and hurt his Blood; therefore what you want in Straw, let it be supplied by riding him forth to Water Morning and Evening, Airings, and other moderate Exercise. And for his Food, let it be good old sweet Hay, and clothe him according to the Weather and Temper of his Body: For as the Year grows colder, and thereby you find his Hair rise and stare about his Neck, Flanks or other Parts, then add a woollen Cloth, or more, if need require, till his Hair fall smooth. Where note, *That a rough Coat shews want of Cloth, and a smooth Coat Cloth enough.*

A Race-horse ought to be dressed on his resting Days twice a Day, before his Morning and Evening Watering, and must be done after this Manner: Curry him from the Tips of his Ears to the setting on of his Tail, all his body entirely over with an Iron Comb, his Legs under the Knees and Gambrels excepted; then Dust him and Curry him high again all over with a round Brush of Bristles, then Dust him the Second Time and rub all the loose Hair off with your Hands dipt in fair Water, and continue rubbing till he is as dry as at first, then rub every Part of him with a hair Cloth; and lastly, rub him all over with a white Linnen Cloth;

Cloth; then pick his Eyes, Nostrils, Sheath, Cods, Tuel and Feet very clean, then clothe him and stop him round with Wisps.

There is no better Water for a Race-horse than a running River or clear Spring, about a Mile and half from the Stable, near some level Ground, where you may gallop him afterwards; having scoped him a little, bring him to the Water again, then scope him and bring him again, so often till he refuse to drink more for that Time; after this walk him home, clothe and stop him up round with great soft Wisps, and having stood an Hour upon the Bridle, feed him with sound Oats, dry'd either by Age or Art. If your Horse be low of Flesh, or hath a bad Stomach, add one Third of Beans to two Parts of Oats, and that will recover both.

The next Food you shall give him shall be better and stronger, and it is Bread, which you must make after this Manner: Take two Bushels of Beans, and one of Wheat, and grind them together; then bould thro' a fine Range, the Quantity of half a Bushel of pure Meal, and bake it in three Loaves, and the rest sift through a Meal-sieve, and knead it with Water and good Store of Barm, and bake it in great Loaves: with the coarser Bread feed your Runner on his resting Days
and

and with the finer against the Days of his Exercise and greatest Labour.

The Times of his feeding upon the Days of his Rest, must be, after his coming from Water in the Morning, an Hour after Mid-day, after his Evening Watering, and at Ten a-Clock at Night; but upon his labouring Days, two Hours after he is thoroughly cold, outwardly and inwardly, as aforesaid.

Let his Hay be dry and short; if it be sweet no Matter how coarse it is, for if it be rough it will scour his Teeth. As for the Proportion of his Food, I need not prescribe a Quantity, since you must allow him according to the Goodness and Badness of his Stomach.

His Exercise ought to be thrice a Week, and must be more or less, according to the Condition of his Body; for if it be foul, exercise him moderately to break his Grease; if clean, you may do as you think fit, having a Care that you discourage him not, nor abate his Mettle; and after every Exercise, give him that Night, or the next Morning, a Scouring; the best I know to purge a Horse from all Grease, Glut, or Filth whatever, is this; Take three Ounces of Anniseeds, six Drams of Cummin-seeds, a Dram and half of Carthamus, two Drams of Fenugreek-

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feed

seed, and of Brimstone an Ounce and an half; beat all these to fine Powder, and searfe them; then take of Sallad-Oyl, somewhat more than a Pint, a Pound and half of Honey, and a Pottle of white Wine, then with fine white Meal knead it well into strong Paste, and keep it by you, it will last a long Time; when you use it, dissolve a Ball thereof in a Pail of fair Water, and give it him to drink after Exercise, in the Dark, lest discolouring the Water, the horse refuse to drink. This is an excellent Scouring, and a Remedy for all internal Distempers.

Now after Exercise, cool him a little abroad before you bring him home, then house him and litter him well, rubbing him with dry Cloths till there be never a wet Hair about him, then clothe and wisp him well.

Here note, before you air your Horse, it will be requisite to break a raw Egg into his Mouth for it will add to his Wind. If he be fat, air him before Sun-rise, and after Sun-set; but if lean, let him have as much Comfort of the Sun as you can. Coursing in his Cloaths sometimes to make him sweat is not irrequisite, so it be moderately done; but when without his Cloaths, let it be sharp and swift.

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Let his body be empty before he course; and to wash his Tounge and Nostrils with Vinegar, or to piss in his Mouth e'er you back him, is wholesome; having cours'd him clothe him after he hath taken Breath, and ride him home gently.

To be short, whatever is here defective in the right ordering of a Race-Horse, your own Judgments may easily supply. All that you have to do, is to be careful when to take him up, how to clothe him and dress him, when and how to feed and water, what and how much Exercise is requisite, either by airing or coursing, and his ordering after Exercise, and what Scourings are most requisite; and that I may add a little more to your Knowledge, and conclude this Subject, take these general Rules and Instructions.

1. Course not your Horse hard, at least four or five Days before you run your Match, lest the Soreness of his Limbs abate his Speed.

2. Except your Horse be a foul Feeder, muzzle him not above two or three Nights before his Match, and the Night before his bloody Courses.

3. As you give your Horse gentle Courses,

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give

give him sharp ones too, that he may as well find Comfort as Displeasure thereon.

4. Upon the Match-Day let your Horse be empty, and that he take his rest undisturbed till you lead him out.

5. Shoe your Horse every Day before you run him, that the Pain of the Hammer's Knocks may be out of his Feet.

6. Saddle your Horse on the Race-Day in the Stable, before you lead him forth, and fix both the Pannel and the Girths to his Back and Sides with Shoemaker's Wax, to prevent all Dangers.

7. Lead your Horse to his Course with all Gentleness, and give him Leave to smell to other Horses Dung, that thereby he may be enticed to stool, and empty his Body as he goes.

8. Lastly, When you come to the Place where you must start, first rub his Limbs well, then unclothe him, then take his Back, and the Word given, start him with all Gentleness and Quietness that may, lest doing any thing rashly, you choak him in his own Wind.

A Race-Horse ought to have all the finest Shape

Shapes that may be, but above all Things he must be nimble, quick, and fiery, apt to fly with the least Motion. Long Shapes are tolerably good, for tho' they shew Weakness, yet they assure sudden Speed. The best Horse for this Use is the *Arabian Barbary*, or his Bastard; not but *Gennets* are good buts the *Turks* much better.

Having laid you down all these Advantages for ordering your Racer, from his taking up, to the Day of his Running, I hope you will make such good Use of them, that if upon an equal Match you should lay your Money on the Heels of your Horse thus ordered, he shall be so far from kicking away his Master's Stake, that the Nimbleness of his Feet shall make it double

I might here insert the many Subtilties and Tricks there are used in making a Match, the Craft of the Betters, with the Knavery of the Riders, but that they are now too generally known by the woful Experience of too many *Racing-Losers*.

The following paragraphs being selected from the best written pieces on the Subject of Farriery, it is presumed, are not improperly placed here.

In Buying a Horse.

A Dealer's Word is not to be regarded, but trust your own Eyes and Judgment.

The best Size Horse for the Road is the middle Size, *i. e.* about 14 Hands and an Inch, for all under are called *Galloways*.

It is hard to find a Horse in every respect, such as to please a good Judge; but when you have seen one perform his Exercise, you must ride him yourself a few Miles in rough and uneven Roads, giving him his head without forcing by Whip or Spur; and if he walks, trots, and canters nimbly, without dwelling upon the Ground, taking up his Fore-feet moderately high, and stepping longer and shorter, according as he finds there is Occasion, and going *near* before, and *wide* behind. This is the beast that is likely to carry his Master well. A man should not be too hasty in his Choice, nor too nice in Distinction; as to Age, almost every body knows, or pretends to know; tho' Dealers practise a Cheat in burning

ning Horses Teeth after cutting them with a Graver, which makes the Mark appear somewhat like a true one, yet this is discoverable. The Eyes oftner deceive Gentlemen than any other Parts of Horses; therefore be very careful to observe them in the Light and if in the first Trial the Pupil dilates largely and contracts again, as the Horse is exposed to a more clear Sun you may conclude his Eyes are good; small Eyes are a bad Sign; the Colour often the Cause of a good or bad Eye; the Hazle is best because the Horse that has such an Eye is generally of a good Colour; whereas the Wall-Eye is common to the ball'd Horse, a Colour not coveted, as they often have white, *soft boofs* and are frequently of a washy or lax Constitution, which is never to be chose for the Road; a *general Maxim* to me is, if I see a Horse empty himself often on the Road, I infer, he is no Horse for a long Journey, unless you want to make a Skeleton of him. — Captain *Burdon* advises us to mind a Horse's Knees are not broken, when we want to buy; which is a good caution to all.

As to Horses Wind, it is easily judged of in some Cases, and but with Difficulty in others; for if you give him a good brushing Gallop, every one knows, it will make him heave in the Flanks, and occasion Coughing

Coughing; the only way to guard against being cheated with a broken-winded Horse is by having him kept at hard Meat two or three Days, I mean at good Hay, and keep him from Water about 24 hours, when he has drank his belly-full after eating such Hay, the Diaphragm or Midriff will be so pressed against his Lungs, that if he has any Impediments there, he will certainly shew it, and more especially if his head is turned down hill.

A Saddle-horse should have thin shoulders, flat Chest, and his Fore-feet should stand boldly forward, and even, and his Neck rise semicircular; if a Horse rides clean 'tis a sure Sign he moves well upon his Limbs; if he trots well down hill he will do it any where. A Horse that goes ill or cuts in thin Shoes, will do so in new ones; tho' a good *Smith* may in some sort help it; a *foundered* Horse will shew it in the Stable, if at his own liberty to stand as he pleases, for he will change first one Fore-foot, and then another, sometimes setting the Foot out farther which he wants to ease; so that if you view a Horse coolly in his Stall for about five Minutes, you will see his Actions sufficiently with respect to a hot Foot or Founder.

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There is scarce a better Property in a Horse than a sound *tough Hoof*, that will abide hard Roads without heating much. If a Horse's Hoofs are good he may get over the Road without falling down, although, his shoulders be none of the thinest sort; whereas if he is *heavy* shoulder'd and has tender Hoofs, 'tis ten to one but he goes often to *Prayers*, as we say.

The Back of a Horse should be often look'd at upon a Journey, and great Care taken that the Saddle is properly fix'd, that it may not *gall* and *warble*. Where the Rider has been so careless as to suffer a sore back or Inflammation, *salt water*, *warm Urine*, *Vinegar*, &c. are commonly used to cool a Horse's back; but if the Skin be broke in Holes from what is called *Warbles*, I believe it will be found that equal Quantities of Spirit of Wine and Tincture of Myrrh and Aloes, with a little Oil of Turpentine, will be best to bathe the Places with now and then: a Man should walk on foot sometimes to ease his Horse's back.

Most Swellings should be dissolved rather than suppurated, which is done by cold
repellent

repellent Applications, as, *Salt and Water*, or *Vinegar*, else a Pultice of boiled Turnips.

The best Method to keep a Horse's Legs from swelling, or to fall them when swell'd is to wash them with warm Water every time you bait; soft, warm Water, such as will bear Sope, is as good of itself, as any thing we can put in it, whether Sope or any other Ingredient. A wide Stall, proper bleeding, with good Dressing and Exercise, are the greatest Helps towards keeping the Limbs from swelling; and the best Physic is good feeding and dressing.

A Horse of Size, that has a good Appetite and travels much, about 6 Quarts of clean Oats, half a Pint of split beans, and a handful of Wheat mixed, is sufficient for a Day; but a Hunter of Size may require the like Feed with a galloping Horse, *viz.* about half a *Winchester* of Oats, a Quart of Beans, and three Handfuls of Wheat, mix'd and divided into three equal Feeds.

As the young Traveller may expect some Directions about watering a Horse on the Road, observe, when a Horse travels he perspires much, especially in hot weather, and may therefore be allowed to drink a little now and then, as opportunity offers, which

which will refresh him, but never let him drink much at a time ; but when you come within a Mile and half or two Miles of where you bait, be it Noon or Night, he may drink more freely, going a moderate Trot afterwards, for by this means the Water will be well warmed in his belly, and he will go in cool. Yet observe, if he has no Water on the Road, never suffer him to be led to water, or wash his Heels after you are arrived at your Inn, but let him have Water made luke-warm after he has stood some time in the Stable, for much Mischief has been done by imprudent Riders that have travelled hard, and let their Horses drink as much as they would at going into the Town or Inn where they intended to lie.

When a Horse's Legs swell, and they will not yield to *good Keeping, clean Dressing, a wide Stall, &c.* without the Help of Medicines, the Case is bad, and the Purge may be of service.

A lean Horse should be seldom purged.

F I N I S.

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